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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

Volume 35 Number 15

APRIL 3, 1998

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~publicas/folio>

## Juno hat trick for Malcolm Forsyth!

*Music professor picks up his third Canadian music award*

By Geoff McMaster

One of his students calls him "the Titanic of the Junos." That may be a small stretch, but there's no doubt Dr. Malcolm Forsyth has once again demonstrated he's one of the finest classical composers in the country.

When asked every reporter's typically banal question in such situations—how does it feel to win your third Juno for Best Classical Composition? (he received the

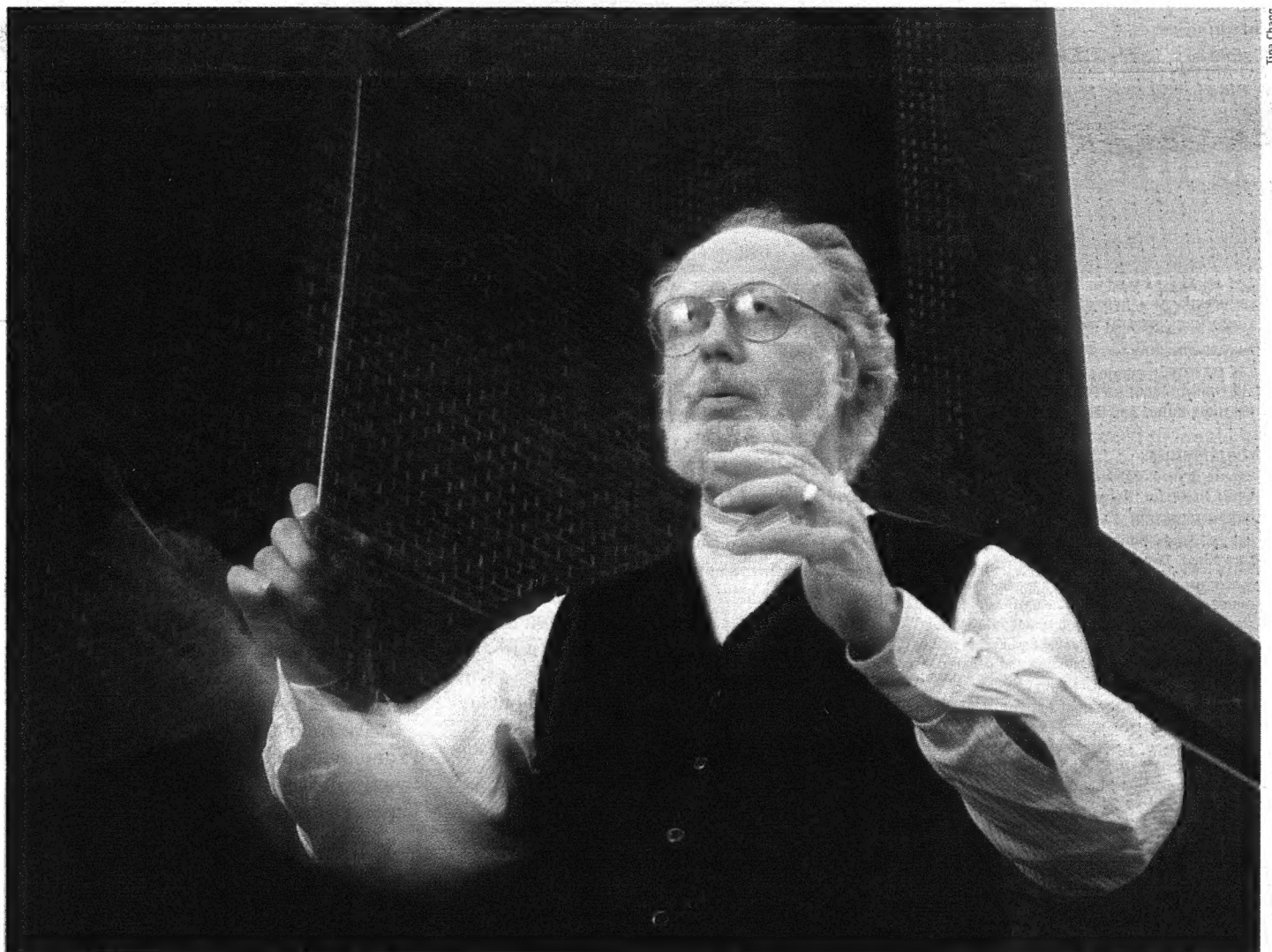
others in 1987 and 1996)—the University of Alberta music professor responds wryly: "It feels just like the third time."

Jesting aside, however, Forsyth says while "it's very nice to have this type of approbation," this award is probably the finest of the

three. That's because *Electra Rising*, the winning concerto for cello with orchestra, was written especially for his daughter Amanda Forsyth, Julliard-trained principal cellist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and soon to be principal cellist with the National Arts Orchestra.

In fact no one is quicker to set the record straight than Amanda, insisting the Juno is "Our award—both of our names are going on it. We worked on it together when he was writing it, and through my fax machine I would give suggestions. So it's really a partnership. Since I've grown up with his music, I think I really understand how it should sound. He never really had to tell me how to play it because I had this instinct."

Forsyth describes *Electra Rising* as "very much me"—that is, eclectic, but also extremely accessible, and certainly not the type of work to end up collecting dust behind a bookcase. In fact, you may



Dr. Malcolm Forsyth

find yourself listening to it when you least expect it.

"Somebody told me she walked into A & B (Sound) the other day, and it happened to be playing out loud," says Forsyth proudly.

Because he was born in South Africa, and studied at the University of Capetown, there is often a strong African influence in his music, he says, in terms of both melody and rhythm. The second movement of *Electra Rising*, for example, is entitled *Mayi Buye Afrika! Zulu for "Let Africa Return,"* the cry of the African

National Congress during their struggle against apartheid.

"The key to Malcolm is that he's modern but never stretches the envelope too far," says Forsyth's graduate student in composing, Graham Kidd. "He tries to be as musical as possible, and is always trying new techniques, but they always seem to work."

As to future endeavors, Forsyth admits he's been in "a bit of a trough" lately but is getting set to embark on a new concerto for accordion and orchestra as soon as classes end this term. But before that, Forsyth will conduct the University of

Alberta Symphony Orchestra, the Madrigal Singers and the Concert Choir at the Winspear Centre on Sunday, April 5 at 8 p.m. in an event called 'The Music Makers,' to mark the 90th anniversary of the University of Alberta.

After serving the U of A's music department for 30 years, Forsyth is only four years shy of retirement. He'd like to continue writing and conducting, he says, but also plans to begin a new career reflecting more dramatic departures.

"I'm a bit of a Renaissance man in that sense. I want to do carpentry and painting, and I want to learn other languages." ■

Tina Chang



# Saved in the nick of time!

**Federal and provincial dollars ensure protein researchers stay internationally competitive**

By Michael Robb

Without a new 800 megahertz nuclear magnetic resonance machine, the University of Alberta was in danger of losing its pre-eminent position in protein research. Last week, however, the federal and provincial governments announced new science and research spending. And several million dollars of that spending will be used to purchase the important new research tool.

"Without it we would have begun to slide," said the leader of the Protein Engineering Network of Centres of Excellence. "In any area of science, you can take a group to an internationally competitive level, but when new technology comes along, you need it to stay on par," Dr. Bob Hodges told *Folio* last week. He

acknowledged the U of A was in danger of losing key high-flying researchers to another university. Earlier last week, Alberta's minister of science and technology, Dr. Lorne Taylor, told *The Edmonton Journal* one of Canada's leading researchers, the U of A's Dr. Brian Sykes, was being courted by an American university.

Hodges predicted the machine—used by scientists to study the three dimensional structure of proteins and develop new drugs—will take researchers to a "whole new level of research." New structural biology people will be hired and the whole research area will once again enter a growth phase. Construction will begin this spring on a new building near the Heritage Building to house the machine.

The U of A isn't the only Canadian university that will soon have the high-

tech tool. Researchers at the University of Toronto, watching the success of their Edmonton-based peers, stepped up their efforts to fund a similar machine at their facility. One will soon be installed there.

What that means, says Hodges, is Edmonton and Toronto will remain hotbeds of protein research in this country—and that's good news. "We're taking another step forward in Canada."

...New structural biology

people will be hired and

the whole research area

will once again enter a

growth phase.

The money comes from several sources: \$1.552 million, Science and Research Fund; \$1.3 million, Western Economic Development; \$1.1 million, Medical Research Council; \$700,000, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research; \$500,000, Intellectual Infrastructure Partnership Program; and \$300,000, University of Alberta.

The provincial funding is part of a larger package. The provincial government is committing \$15 million this year to its science and research fund, triple what it had in the budget last year. The province's Science and Research Authority last year released a report calling for dramatic spending increases in the province's knowledge-based industries, to \$3 billion a year by 2020 up from the current \$850 million. It's a recommendation that has support.

An Angus Reid survey conducted last fall found more than 80 per cent of Albertans who responded wanted the province to increase the amount of money it spends on science and research. Last week, Taylor called on the business sector to substantially increase their science and research investments. ■

# Why exercise?

**Motivation counts, says researcher**

By Michael Robb

It's 11:45. Your colleagues in Bio Sciences are reaching for their gym bags. They're off to the Van Vliet Centre. But what are their parting words? Are they, "I should go and do my exercises." Or, are they, "I can't wait to do my exercises today."

No contest, right? The fact is, people are prepared to exercise—but not primarily for inherent or essential reasons, says one of the continent's foremost researchers on what motivates people to exercise. "People see exercising as an instrumental way of getting fit and looking better, so they're extrinsically motivated in the purest sense," says University of Rochester professor Dr. Richard Ryan.

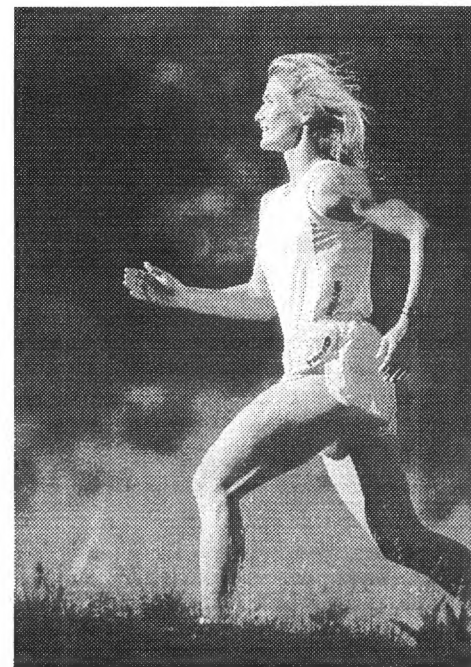
But that's not the way people stay involved with an exercise or sport, Ryan told many of this university's leading sport psychologists and students last week at the Alberta Centre for Well Being.

"If your focus is really on the competence and skill building or on the interest and enjoyment of the exercise itself, you're more likely to sustain exercise over time," he said. Other people focus on body outcome: "I'll be better looking, more fit and that somehow makes me a better person." But body changes don't happen instantly; they usually take months to happen, he says. "So if that's your motivation for being in there, and you're not getting that reinforcement very quickly, exercise will wane."

A study of 370 adults at the University of Rochester conducted by Ryan and a colleague found people who were motivated to exercise for fitness, image or competence reasons didn't stick with the activities as long as those who were motivated by interest and enjoyment—or intrinsic reasons. In another study, Ryan found only 35 people of an original 165 continued attending a fitness centre after five months. People who cited social and enjoyment reasons for attending were more likely to persist.

North American sport culture doesn't help, Ryan pointed out. "What should be fun and games for people often becomes a matter of personal achievement, a proving ground for themselves. We're enamoured with awards and trophies, who's in first place. When we look at our major sports figures, it seems they're more interested in their contracts [extrinsic rewards] than loyalty to their teams."

"We're getting the message that the reason we do sports is extrinsic rather than intrinsic. That infiltrates the entire culture of sport." Still, sports for most people remains an intrinsically motivated activity. Take kids, for example, who play soccer all year long with great excitement and fun. There's still a belief out there that we need to give them awards and trophies or else they won't be motivated, Ryan points out. ■



## Corrections

• In the last issue of *Folio*, Richard Green and Wanda Wetterberg were incorrectly identified as "Dr."

• The U of A first began using videoconferencing in 1979, within the Faculty of Nursing, not 1995 as suggested in last issue's "Distance Learning" article. Dr. Shirley Stinson initiated the program and she can be reached at 6246 for further information.

## folio

Volume 35 Number 15

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*Folio's* mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the University community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. *Folio* is published 20 times per year.

The editor reserves the right to limit, select, edit and position submitted copy and advertisements. Views expressed in *Folio* do not necessarily reflect University policy. *Folio* contents may be printed with acknowledgement.

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...it makes sense

## NASA and university have an agreement

**Agreement in the same monetary ballpark as other settlements, say university, NASA spokespeople**

By Michael Robb

A three-year collective agreement calling for salary increases has been ratified by the Non-Academic Staff Association membership and the university's Board of Governors.

The agreement calls for a salary increase of 2.69 per cent retroactive to April 1, 1997. That will effectively return money deducted from NASA members' paycheques for seven unpaid days. Unpaid days will no longer be deducted. The agreement also includes a 2.75 per cent increase in base pay effective April 1, 1998, and a 2.25 per cent increase in base pay effective April 1, 1999. It's anticipated retroactive pay will be included in NASA members' April paycheques.

If the U of A and NASA can make headway on containing benefits costs, it's possible NASA members will see a potential 0.85 per cent increase in base pay effective October 1, 1999.

No agreement is perfect and this one isn't either, says NASA's negotiating chair, Kevan Warner, but in terms of salary, the settlement is in the same ballpark as others concluded

recently in the Edmonton area. Bruce Anderson, chair of the university's negotiations committee, agrees. It is quite competitive in the Edmonton market, he says.

"The two parties have made great strides in improving the relationship and the collective agreement is the first example of this improving relationship," says Anderson.

The agreement contains substantial changes in several key provisions. For example, Warner says there are improvements in the layoff and recall (now called position disruption and employee displacement). Other areas which came under scrutiny and were changed include: benefits and disability management costs, employee types, and dispute resolution. And both parties have agreed to introduce a new workplace representative system.

These improvements will provide a better framework for relations between the two parties, says Warner. Meanwhile, the university and NASA are expected to begin talking about benefits costs containment issues and issues associated with general support trust employees. ■



# More than just 'feeling blue'

By Michael Robb

They call depression the "common cold" of mental illness. And the campus experts who treat students with depression say over the last 10 years there has been an increase in the number and severity of cases.

About four per cent of the people who walk through the doors of University Health Services are suffering from severe anxiety or depression, says physician Dr. Teresa Stelfox. "Since 1981, I've seen a 30 to 40 per cent increase in the number of people I see." Down the hall, in Student Counselling Services, director Dr. Howard Saslove, says his numbers have steadily climbed throughout the last decade.

In 1996-97, Priority One Human Resources Inc., the firm retained by the university to provide employee and family assistance programs for staff, saw about 300 staff members and many of their dependents. About 20 per cent—that's about 60 people—reported being on the edge or experiencing full-blown depression, says Dr. Wes Penner. That's down slightly from the numbers in 1993, when layoffs, fear of layoffs and workloads were big workplace issues on campus.

How do you know if you're depressed? The signs aren't always obvious. Experts typically have to ask a lot of questions to confirm diagnoses. There are early-warning signs, however. Stress is the obvious one. Students will sometimes tell Saslove they simply walked out of their exams. Others will stop attending classes. They have trouble sleeping, maintaining their motivation and self-esteem, experience feelings of hopelessness, and become increasingly withdrawn. Saslove and Penner agree it is often a disintegrating relationship that forms part of the problem. In the worst-case scenarios, people will admit they are suicidal.

Is there more depression around today? Definitely, yes, says Penner, and that's borne out by study after study. The increase is due to the fact that we live in fast, precarious and cynical times, a time when society and the economy are changing at an unprecedented pace. That means more stress, the precursor to depression, says Penner.

The U of A rates are similar to national rates. According to mental health associations in the U.S. and Canada, about five per cent of the population experiences mild symptoms of depression—that's about 1.5 million Canadians. At least one in six experiences a serious or major depressive episode in their life.

Not surprisingly, the incidence of depression on campus among students increases around exam time. And, says Penner, high rates of absenteeism are associated with depression.

Who's most at risk? Women suffer depression twice as frequently as men, but men often hide their depression and don't report it. The American Psychological Association's task force on women and depression found 37 per cent of depressed women had experienced some physical or sexual abuse by age 21. Urban residents report more commonly than rural residents. And the baby boom generation, with its unprecedented rates of divorce



Tina Chang

and relocation, is the most at-risk group in North America, say experts.

Unlike the common cold, however, students and staff suffering from depression can do something about it. University Health Services has seven part-time psychiatrists on staff. Counselling does work, says Saslove.

In the short term, counsellors and physicians help students defer exams and assignments that may be simply overwhelming students. They may refer them to their family physician. In the longer term, counsellors help students sort out priorities and causes, and talk about their underlying belief systems. "In many cases we ask about work load," explains Saslove. Some students will be working two part-time jobs, carrying a full course load, doing sports, volunteering and socializing.

However, "If they have the opportunity to work out their problems, they become stronger and forge ahead. If they can name it, face it and deal with it, their self-esteem goes up." Saslove says the sad part, however, is that once people come to see him, they're typically not coming for preventative reasons.

There are many resources people suffering from depression can draw on. But they're up against some formidable cultural hurdles. The stigma still exists, says Penner. Saslove points out this is a culture of individualism. There's a reluctance to come forward and admit mental illness,

particularly among professors. He sees more support staff than professors and more women than men.

As for students, many have high expectations of themselves and when they don't meet them, they feel ashamed. Their self-esteem is on the line. And despite strict confidentiality, students are often fearful everyone on campus will know they're suffering from depression. One 21-year-old international student last year

became so withdrawn, he became depressed and eventually psychotic. He finally sought help at Health Services and eventually got back on track. "Human beings are social; they need to laugh, to cry and to share their feelings," explains Stelfox.

"We tend to reinforce the work ethic more than self care," says Saslove, who believes the focus has to shift from treatment to prevention and screening. ■

## SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

NOTE: You must have at least five out of nine symptoms for at least two weeks with one of the symptoms being either number one or two, causing clinically significant distress or impairment in functioning.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Depressed mood most of the day, (e.g. feels sad or empty, appears tearful)  | 8 Diminished ability to think or concentrate, or indecisiveness   |
| 2 Markedly diminished interest in all, or almost all, activities most of the day  | 9 Recurrent thoughts of death (not just fear of dying), recurrent suicidal ideation without a specific plan, or a suicide attempt or a specific plan for committing suicide |
| 3 Significant weight loss or weight gain when not dieting, or decrease or increase in appetite  | Major depression:   |
| 4 Insomnia or hypersomnia nearly every day  | 5 Mild  |
| 5 Psychomotor agitation or retardation (observable by others, not merely subjective feeling of restlessness or being slowed down)             | 6 to 8 Moderate   |
| 6 Fatigue or loss of energy   | 9 Severe  |
| 7 Feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt (which may be delusional, not merely self-reproach or guilt about being sick) |   |

» quick » facts



# Opening windows in the ivory tower

*Maclean's* editor says magazine has played a huge role in an era of accountability

By Michael Robb

Dead last. That's where the U of A ranked in *Maclean's* magazine's alumni support category included in its comprehensive rankings of medical/doctoral universities.

But that will likely change, says Ann Dowsett Johnston, editor of the influential rankings issue. "We are seeing levels of philanthropy that we've never seen before; in five years the U of A will be quite thrilled to have it [included]."

Dowsett Johnston doesn't expect to change the way the magazine calculates average entering grades: the U of A ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 15. Yes, she acknowledges, she's heard the complaints from U of A administrators who say the magazine doesn't account for grade inflation in Ontario high schools. "There's a lot of conversation about that issue. But there's one truth when it comes to ranking—and Rod Fraser when he was at Queen's was one of the most eloquent in terms of persuading me—you only measure what you can, you only measure what is measurable." She suggests it would be virtually impossible to weight and assign a number to students from the various provinces.

On the contentious issue of whether the universities' data are comparable and gathered uniformly—another issue that stimulates cross-country discussions about the legitimacy of the rankings—Dowsett Johnston says some universities have worked harder at it...and this does not make them liars or cheats. "They understood earlier that it was to their benefit to spend the time. Some found reasonable and legitimate ways of answering it [the survey instrument the magazine uses to gather data] correctly that others had not thought of. Others learned from them."

One university was thought to have pulled out for political reasons, but Dowsett Johnston believes it pulled out

because it didn't want their raw numbers shown to other universities. "We are the messenger. We hear it when people say 'Those numbers are way out of line.' And we take it very seriously."

Last fall, for example, one university in the top five submitted numbers which sent up a red flag. "We phoned them back and said we're not going to tell you what you've done wrong, but would you please look at this indicator. We knew they hadn't spent enough time on it, and we just knew that their numbers were wrong."

Dowsett Johnston is clearly pleased with the role the magazine has carved out for itself in an era of accountability. Perhaps, she says, it was slightly ahead of the times with the introduction of the rankings issue almost a decade ago. It stemmed, she says, from the moral belief that if publicly-funded universities aren't counting and comparing class sizes, why not? They are in the U.S. The university community was very comfortable as the Goliath. "We were the David—not to slay Goliath—but to challenge and point out that it is a culture of accountability."

Readers can expect the magazine to turn its attention to "output measures." Did the student consumer get what he or she needed? In the long term that's exactly what you want to know, says Dowsett Johnston. She says undergraduate students aren't having the quality of experience she enjoyed at university. Between 1995 and 1997, full-time faculty declined by six per cent, first-year classes taught by tenured



faculty dropped by three per cent and classes in first and second-year were cut by six per cent. Those are telling stats, she says.

Dowsett Johnston, a keen observer of the cultural shifts taking place on campuses across the country, says the U of A has been way ahead of other universities in its effort to raise the public profile of post-secondary education. She acknowledges some people are cynical about the U of A's "...it makes sense" campaign and the "Think About It" campaign at UBC. "But there's substance beneath these campaigns. They're not just slogans. This university understands what others have not—that there needs to be windows into

the ivory tower and the ivory tower needs to reach out. That's a huge shift, universities understanding that they belong to the community."

Perhaps no other publication in the country looks more often—and more closely—through those ivory tower windows. Dowsett Johnston is proud of the magazine's role in putting post-secondary education on the journalistic agenda. Forty-two pages every year in the rankings issue, publication of *The Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities*, and regular education coverage all reflect the high priority the issues are given, she says. In addition, they reflect how important they are to Canadians. ■

## U of A holds Hong Kong convocation

*President counters students' claims of wasted spending*

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo and Michael Robb

The University of Alberta made history in its 90th anniversary year with its first international convocation ceremony in Hong Kong.

About 120 alumni walked across the stage in the Hong Kong Convention and

Exhibition Centre, March 22, as more than 400 of their family members and friends looked on from the audience.

The idea of an international convocation was borne out of trying to keep the ties among Hong Kong's 1,100 alumni, the U of A's largest overseas branch. It aimed to build rapport with U of A alumni, to increase awareness about the university and its activities among alumni families and friends, and more importantly, to cultivate interest in the U of A as a place to work and study. Cecilia Lam, rehabilitation medicine '76, got the ball rolling for the idea last year.

But while the convocation was enthusiastically received, it was the target of criticism by out-going Students' Union president, Stephen Curran. He recently disputed the merits of the international convocation in an opinion piece in *Gateway*, March 26. In a news release sent out to media, Curran says students are "furious at the administration for hosting its first off-campus convocation after pleading poverty and approving the maximum tuition increase." He goes on to say the event, with its estimated \$80,000 price tag, "was unnecessary and is tantamount to a slap in the face for students."

Senior administrators defended the trip, however, at General Faculties Council, March 30. Peter Cahill, president of the Graduate Students' Association, asked President Rod Fraser to forgo international trips at a time when students

are bearing the full brunt of maximum tuition increases. But Fraser said he remains committed to internationalization for five primary reasons: recruitment of outstanding students; cultivating academic exchange agreements with selective institutions; alumni development; meeting with key benefactors; and establishing joint ventures with institutions and governments.

The president said internationalization is a two-way street. Every U of A student should have, as part of their student experience, a significant international experience, typically at an overseas institution. They will work in a truly international world. And, the president pointed out, the increase in the number of international students by about 140 students over a two-year period has resulted in an increase of just under \$1 million flowing into the university's core operating budget.

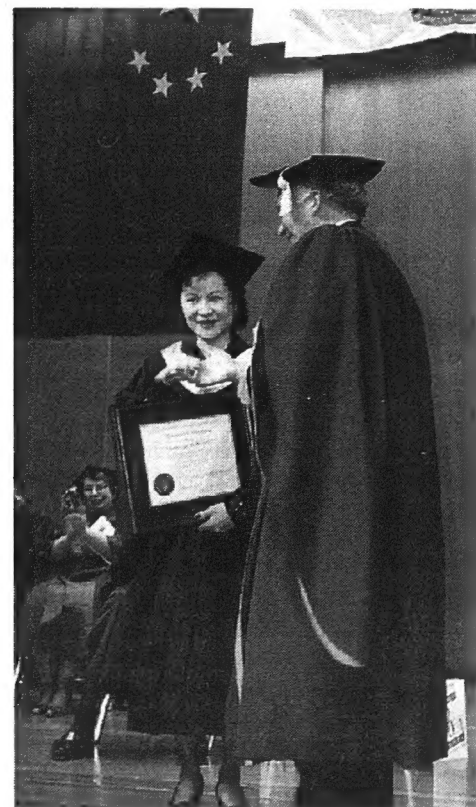
The president said the U of A's internationalization efforts are also very much in sync with the province's goals. "The premier has made it part of his strategy to facilitate the connection of Albertans in selling and doing business in Southeast Asia. When I'm out visiting alumni groups across Alberta, I am met uniformly with support for internationalization." Fraser urged GFC members to take a look at the current workplace. He said U of A graduates in mining, software engineering, oil and gas, paper and pulp, agriculture and pharmaceuticals—almost to a person—

are involved to some extent with internationalization.

Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Richard Peter, attended the convocation and said the pride and enthusiasm he found among alumni was overwhelming. "Their sons and daughters are destined for the U of A...They know the U of A is a top quality place and it served them well. The experiences here changed their lives." The dean spoke to a U of A alumnus who graduated two years ago and flew to Hong Kong from Ottawa to attend the ceremony with his family. A teen-aged brother and family friend both piped up "U of A" when asked where they were heading for university in a few years, says Peter.

With Hong Kong now the gateway to all of China, Peter said strong ties with alumni will help the U of A "stay on the map of recruiting students from both Hong Kong and the mainland. This is a very competitive market. Just a week after our ceremony, the University of New South Wales had their international convocation. They've been doing it for years."

Officiating at the convocation were University of Alberta Chancellor Louis D. Hyndman, Board of Governors Acting Chair Lloyd Malin, President and Vice-Chancellor Rod Fraser, and Acting Vice-President Research and External Affairs Roger Smith. In addition to Peter, Dean Patricia Clements, Faculty of Arts and Dean Michael Percy, Faculty of Business were also in Hong Kong. ■



Cecilia Lam receives an alumni citation in recognition of her volunteer efforts with the Hong Kong convocation.



## Globalization and the university community

By **Norman Riddell**, associate vice-president international

Albertans live in a world in which international boundaries are increasingly irrelevant. Long part of an ecological "free-trade" zone, they are now being brought into closer interaction with people and events beyond their frontiers by technological change, markets and government policy whose ultimate objective is the creation of a single global economy.

Successful participation in this increasingly interdependent world requires knowledge and skills that did not previously exist. President Fraser wants to make sure the University of Alberta is up to the task of providing that knowledge and those skills. "I have one big question," says the president. "Thirty years from now, will today's graduates say that the University of Alberta prepared them to be successful in life?"

Knowing what knowledge will be necessary for success in the twenty-first century is not easy, but if current trends which bring people together from around the world can be taken as a guide, today's graduates will need to know a great deal more about the external world than their predecessors. The university must develop and communicate knowledge about the world beyond our borders if the education it provides is to remain relevant.

Internationalization is not an entirely new process designed to promote and integrate an international dimension into

the university's traditional mission of creating and disseminating knowledge. It affects most, if not all, of the university's operations. What we teach, how we teach, to whom we teach and with whom we choose to work are all affected. What is new is the need to respond quickly.

International activities are the means the university uses to internationalize itself. President Fraser has identified five: the recruitment of outstanding international students, the development of strategic alliances with first class foreign universities in support of research and faculty and student exchanges, building alumni organizations abroad, developing relations with potential foreign benefactors and creating a capacity to identify and manage joint ventures and international projects.

The president's recent trip to Southeast Asia resulted in progress on all five fronts. Students were recruited; partnerships identified; alumni mobilized; pledges made; and new joint ventures planned. More specifically, the Hong Kong Bureau of Education added Edmonton to the very limited list of North American cities in which it intends to recruit 750 teachers of English as a second language. These jobs, which pay between US \$35-68,000, must represent one of the better opportunities currently available to U of A education graduates. Prior to the Hong Kong convocation, the bureau

was unaware of U of A's ability to produce first-class ESL teachers.

Meetings held during and around the Hong Kong convocation also yielded four to five million dollars in additional pledges as well as new work-study opportunities for our students. Meetings in Bangkok and Singapore reinforced efforts to build alumni support in those cities and will result in new opportunities for student and faculty exchanges with three of those countries' leading universities. Plans were also discussed to involve the U of A in the development of a new university in Thailand, a project which will provide not only stimulating jobs for our faculty and students, but also funds which can be recycled into other international activities such as support for Alberta students to participate in international exchanges.

The opportunities which were uncovered during the president's recent trip to Asia are only a small part of a growing inventory. What is required now is for the university community—faculty, students and administrators—to take up the challenge of realizing these activities and using them to transform its traditional mission of developing and disseminating knowledge.

The community needs to set itself a common goal of incorporating an international dimension into its teaching and research. It needs to agree on a process for identifying, undertaking, evaluating and

prioritizing international activities in support of that goal. It needs to provide itself with the required expertise and determine what financial resources it is prepared to commit to the exercise. And finally, because resources are limited and not everything can be done at once, the community needs to focus on a limited number of geographic areas, sectors of activity and types of activity.

Certain steps have already been taken. Those parts of the central administration concerned with the university's international activities have been reorganized in a new University of Alberta International. Draft proposals to assist the community in setting a common goal and in mobilizing the necessary resources have been prepared and are currently being discussed in small groups of faculty, students and administrators.

The university has a choice to make. It can attempt to ignore the world and condemn itself to a slow decline into irrelevance. Or, it can promote and use international activity to transform its research and teaching in such a way that its students will be able to answer the president's question "Did we prepare you well?" in the affirmative. One thing is clear: the choice belongs to and must be made by the university community as a whole. No one, however far-seeing, can realize this task alone. ■

## Saving for a 'rainy day'

*Alberta should set up a fund to guard against fluctuations in oil revenues*

By **Dr. Edward Chambers**, director, Centre for International Business Studies

Alberta has a large stake in energy prices. Among the biggest stakeholders is the government itself which derives—depending on the level of oil and gas prices—from 20 to 30 per cent of its revenues from this source. But that oil and gas revenue is unstable. In the 1998-99 budget, for example, the provincial treasurer estimates oil and gas revenues will be \$1.1 billion lower than in 1997-98. Revenues from oil and gas in 1997-98 were \$1 billion above the 1997-98 budget estimates and a major contributor to the provincial surplus in the fiscal year now ending. The fact is larger swings in energy prices can directly bring about anywhere from a 5 to 10 per cent change in provincial revenues. Energy prices still depend very much on the exercise of power by major OPEC producers to control the available supply of crude oil. Hence, Alberta's budget position is to some degree beholden to OPEC's ability to manage energy prices.

A tax structure whose revenue flow significantly reflects movements in energy prices creates problems, as we well know from Alberta's budget record of the past generation. The difficulties become even greater when a fickle revenue structure is coupled with legislation requiring surpluses to go to debt reduction and making deficits illegal. Simply adapting government expenditures to shortfalls in a fickle tax structure is dysfunctional. Expenditures on education, advanced education,

health care and social services are 70 per cent of budgetary expenditures. Education and health care spending are closely linked to population. Downsizing to reduce deficits has, as we all know, reduced per capita spending for these purposes. After the cutting and restructuring in provincial expenditures of recent

years, participants in the Growth Summit of September 1997 stated quite clearly they want reinvestment in these areas. Social service expenditures address the problems of the least privileged, and surely in a developed and civil society we do not want to make them the target of any further reductions in spending. Much of the other 30 per cent of provincial expenditures goes to maintain-

ing the socio-economic infrastructure essential to a well-functioning society.

So if there is a problem—and if we agree it best that our society should not be beholden to the vagaries of energy prices and to OPEC—what do we do? One alternative has passed us by. That would have been to inflation proof the Heritage Trust Fund from its inception and to have continued to apply a significant fraction of resource revenues to building up the Fund. The flows off a Fund that would now be \$30 billion would address the problem. But perhaps that was the path of the angels. What else might we do? One option, the longer term option, is to alter the tax structure to make revenue flows more stable by doing what virtually every

other state and provincial jurisdiction in North America does—adopt a sales tax. But in Alberta this is not politically feasible for reasons that run the gamut from rational to 'macho'. Hence, we have to look for second best solutions. The Alberta Government has adopted one of the obvious medium-term solutions by incorporating into the expenditure side of the budget a 'Revenue Cushion' budgeted for 1998-99 at \$420 million, an insurance against natural resource revenue shortfalls. The problem is the cushion is not sufficient to protect against large and sustained—but not improbable—declines in energy prices. A

'Revenue Cushion', really an 'Expenditure Insurance Fund', needs to provide more insurance, say for coverage at 10 per cent of provincial budgeted expenditures. That is a level to set Albertans free from constant concern about the impact of, and budgetary response to, conditions in the energy market. How to go about it? It seems quite prudent the first charge against the estimated surplus of \$2.3 billion in 1997-98 should be the establishment of a permanent revolving 'Expenditure Insurance Fund'. The conditions and circumstances under which the Fund is triggered should be specified in legislation. ■

## folio letters to the editor

### "Whatsoever things are true"—true or false?

Our university crest bears the motto QUAE CUMQUE VERA. We are meant to teach, learn and discover. Teaching and learning are not about competing or winning or being great. Discovery can defy common sense. None of these things is easily measured, least of all in terms of external funding. By emphasizing slogans,

we are in danger of losing sight of our true goals. Recent acceptance of fee increases compounds the risk by making the university inaccessible to capable, but poor, students. Do we live up to our motto?

John Shaw  
Professor,  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences



# Forestry programs look lush with Weyerhaeuser's million dollar donation

Stories by Folio Staff

U of A forestry programs have new support for their research activities. The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation and Weyerhaeuser Canada have combined to donate more than \$1 million to the University of Alberta.

The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation has donated \$450,000 to establish a

Enhanced forest management teaches students how to grow more wood sustainably from the same land base while maintaining the biodiversity of the forest.

professorship in Enhanced Forest Management in the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics. Enhanced forest management teaches students how to grow more wood sustainably from the same land base while maintaining the biodiversity of the forest. This

donation, coupled with a \$500,000 commitment last year from Weldwood of Canada, will launch the Institute of Enhanced Forest Management and Research at the U of A, says Dr. Jim Beck, chair of the Department of Renewable Resources.

In addition, Weyerhaeuser Canada has extended its commitment to the Network of Centres of Excellence in Sustainable Forest Management by providing \$600,000 towards research initiatives. The centre is studying ways to manage boreal forests sustainably.

The combined gift to the University of Alberta is \$1.05 million.

George Weyerhaeuser Jr., president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Canada, made the announcement when he was guest lecturer at the university's forest industry lecture series (see story p. 7).

"We are very excited to expand our involvement with the U of A in its role as a key forestry research centre," said Weyerhaeuser. "This research has provided and will continue to provide excel-

lent information on the forest resource and is invaluable not only to the people of Alberta but also to our operations in Alberta and Saskatchewan."

"It would be impossible for us to offer the world class research and technical forestry training that we do without support

from Weyerhaeuser Canada and others in the industry. It goes without saying that we are delighted with this partnership," says Dr. Paul Woodard, forestry professor and associate dean of research in the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics. ■



UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA  
CAMPAIGN

## Bombardier invests in U of A's bilingual commerce program

*First donation to a school outside the province of Quebec*

Canada's unique bilingual B. Comm. program closed its first business deal yesterday with a \$500,000 gift from Bombardier Inc. The donation will establish the bilingual Bombardier Professorship in Entrepreneurship and comes from the J. Armand Bombardier Foundation.

The Professorship is part of the University of Alberta's new bilingual bachelor of

commerce degree program, a joint initiative between the Faculty of Business and Faculté Saint-Jean.

André Bombardier, Bombardier's vice-chair of the board, traveled to Edmonton to make the announcement. "In supporting this project, the Foundation took into account the cooperation between the two Faculties, the unique nature of the Faculty of Business' program in entrepreneurship and the creation of North America's first bilingual bachelor of commerce degree." He added "At the same time, this gift recognizes the important contribution that Faculté Saint-Jean makes to French-speaking communities in Western Canada."

The Bombardier Professor will be a bilingual expert recognized internationally for a strong, well-established record in research and teaching related to entrepreneurship. While the Bombardier Professor will work out of the Faculty of Business, it is a joint appointment with Faculté and

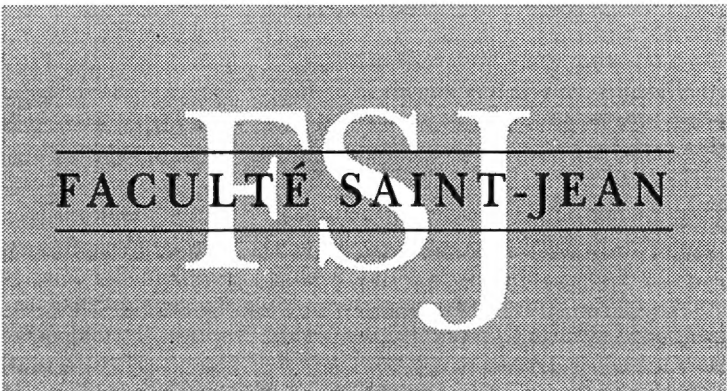
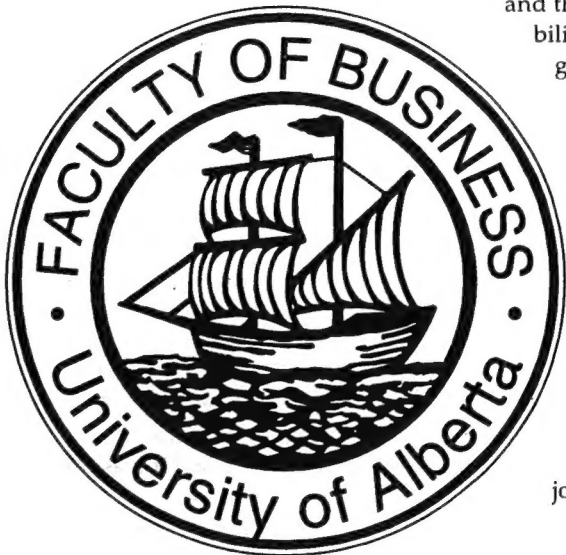
the holder is expected to play an active role in both Faculties.

Business dean, Michael Percy, believes the gift will strengthen existing programs in his faculty. "We have a strong tradition of teaching and research in the Faculty and have recognized expertise in the area of entrepreneurship. We are also delighted to add the bilingual bachelor of commerce program to our list of language majors." The business program already includes Chinese, Japanese, German and Spanish language majors.

Claudette Tardif, dean of Faculté Saint-Jean, agrees with the importance of the new program. "As the only French faculty west of Winnipeg, Faculté Saint-Jean takes a leadership role in promoting French language and culture in

Western Canada and beyond. Our alliance with the Faculty of Business enables us to create a unique program that both promotes French language learning and prepares students for the realities of the business world."

The J. Armand Bombardier Foundation is a private foundation that has supported numerous other educational initiatives, including chairs and professorships at four other universities in Quebec. Their \$500,000 gift will be made over the next five years with the possibility of renewal. ■





# When commercialization makes sense

By **Connie Bryson**

Pure craziness. That was cancer researcher Dr. Linda Pilarski's first thought about the idea of commercializing a test developed by her research team. After all, she and her colleagues are scientists, what do they know about business? And anyway, when would they find the time—and the money—to do this? But then she started to think about it...

Commercializing the test would make it widely available to people with multiple myeloma, a fatal cancer of the bone marrow. Having a simple way to accurately monitor this disease would be a real benefit to patients.

Commercializing the test would also advance the science behind her research. For about 10 years

now, Pilarski and her colleagues have been saying certain cells are critical to the development and spread of myeloma. However the scientific community has been slow to accept this view. Having a widely used test that precisely measures these cells would bolster Pilarski's case.

## THE SECRET LIFE OF B CELLS

Maybe it wasn't so crazy after all...

In 1980, while an immunology professor at the University of Alberta, Pilarski happened to read a grant proposal from Dr. Andrew Belch, an oncologist at the Cross Cancer Institute. It talked about a tumor-specific marker for multiple myeloma. There are about one million people with myeloma in the world.

"It was obvious we needed to get the test out of the research lab and into general use. The only way to do this was to commercialize the technology."

Pilarski, a basic researcher, and Belch, a clinician, began a collaboration that has resulted in a fresh look at the cells in mul-

tiples myeloma. Up until that time, most of the attention in myeloma research had focussed on the malignant plasma cells in the bone marrow. However about 10 years ago, the two researchers noted the presence of many highly abnormal B cells in the blood of people with myeloma. They thought these might be related to the cancer.

"We speculated that these abnormal B cells eventually migrated to the bone marrow and gave rise to myeloma plasma cells," explains Pilarski. "This was a controversial conclusion because at the time there was no direct evidence linking the B cells to the malignancy."

"However we were able to show that these B cells have the identical molecular genetic rearrangement as the plasma cells of the same patient. And our current data suggest that these abnormal B cells are in fact malignant."

## BEYOND DISCOVERY

The discovery opened a door to a new way of monitoring myeloma. Although myeloma has no known cure, there are treatments that help patients live better and longer. Monitoring the disease is therefore an important aspect of treatment. The current method is a biopsy which measures plasma cells in the bone marrow.

The test developed by Pilarski's research team is a blood test that directly measures the malignant B cells. Much of the lab work necessary to develop the test was done by graduate student Agnieszka Szczepk, who has an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) fellowship.

"Our test could be done whenever it's needed," says Pilarski. "All that's required is a blood sample. The patient wouldn't



Dr. Linda Pilarski and Agnieszka Szczepk in the lab.

have to come to a cancer centre. A local lab could prepare the sample, then send it to a central lab for analysis."

Pilarski says it's an important test for myeloma patients because of its accuracy. "While plasma cells are killed by chemotherapy, the abnormal B cells persist in the blood. That's why it's crucial to monitor B cells. At the same time it occurred to me that having a commercial test would help convince the scientific community of the importance of abnormal B cells. It was obvious we needed to get the test out of the research lab and into general use. The only way to do this was to commercialize the technology."

## THE NEXT STEPS

One of the first steps on the road to commercializing the myeloma test was obtaining a patent. While the U of A's Industry Liaison Office (ILO) and the Alberta Cancer Board (ACB) covered the cost of patenting, the task of drafting the patent fell to the scientists. And they needed help.

As luck would have it, one of Pilarski's former postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Jenny Shaw, was back in Edmonton looking for a job, after having completed training as a

patent lawyer. Shaw ended up writing the patent.

With the patent applications in place, Pilarski and her team are working to enhance the marketability of the test. A \$75,000 Phase 2 grant from AHFMR's Technology Commercialization Program, with contributions from both the ILO and ACB, is funding this stage of development. The focus is on getting the information formalized and published, so that a convincing case can be made to companies interested in marketing the test as a commercial "kit".

"So far three companies have expressed interest. I'm hoping that an Alberta business might see this as a side line," says Pilarski.

"Doing something to help patients is attractive. Although I'm not a physician, I do get calls from patients who have heard about my research. Every so often I hear kids in the background and I realize that I'm talking to a young mother who has this fatal disease. There should be something we can do. We're taking a step in the right direction."

*Reprinted with permission from AHFMR's 'TC News.'*

# Please, make those environmentalists go away

*Wishful thinking, Weyerhaeuser president says*

By **Michael Robb**

Some people in the forest industry hold out the faint and misguided hope that public anxiety about commercial forestry is temporary. They want the "magic bullet" to make environmental protests, public scrutiny and government regulation go away. They just want to manage the forests and get on with business.

Forget it, says the president of Weyerhaeuser Canada. "All the signs point to continued controversy." And warned George Weyerhaeuser, urban voters—those he says know the least about what's going on in the forests—are going to have the most influence and say about how foresters conduct their business.

Delivering the university's forest industry lecture series last week to a packed hall, Weyerhaeuser appealed for a broader debate on the issues. "Public debate is not only about past practices, preservation or 'green' science versus 'our' science. It's also about man's role in nature, and the cultural values, icons, experiences, and symbols that influence how we think about nature, whether consciously or unconsciously."

Challenged by one questioner to justify his own cultural values, Weyerhaeuser said his biases lead him to find ways to justify the continued existence of commercial forestry.

"As stewards of the forest, we cannot make the best resource management choices we are capable of when we act without awareness of our own assumptions, beliefs and cultural values." The fifth generation forester said an "adaptive forest management" can "liberate us from some of those assumptions."

This new way of forestry, he said, is based on the need to adapt or continuously improve forestry based on better science, the lessons of experience and constantly evolving public expectations. He acknowledged there are gaps in existing management processes: implementing an ecologically based approach that considers the integrity and diversity of the forest; the impact on other users; the distribution of economic or non-economic benefits; the ability to define and measure indicators of the long-term health of the forest ecosystem; and an early warning system for evidence of environmental change.

"We are just beginning the process of translating ecologically based management concepts into operating practices on the ground," he said.

That's probably why environmental protesters, and public pressure, won't be going away any time soon. ■

# Mountain-loving chemist honored

*PhD graduate killed in climbing accident last summer*

By **Geoff McMaster**

Dr. William Rattray was a passionate climber, running off to the nearest mountain whenever he wasn't in the dairy lab teasing out whey protein properties. In fact, mountaineering played such a large part in his life he acknowledged the "forces of plate tectonics" in his dissertation, insisting "my activities in non-horizontal situations helped preserve my sanity, enabling me to write this thesis."

When the 29-year-old Irish national decided to ascend Mont Blanc in France last August, however, only months after finishing his doctorate at the University of Alberta, something went very wrong. According to Irish newspaper reports, he told his family by phone he would not attempt the ascent that day because of poor weather. But for some reason, he and his French companion changed their minds and went on to scale the 4,700-metre peak anyway. On the descent, roped together, they fell 360 metres and Rattray was killed instantly.

While mountaineering may have been Rattray's first love, dairy chemistry was certainly a close second, according to colleagues. During Rattray's four years here, he managed to co-author ten scientific papers, and was appointed to a research position at Teagasc, Moorepark in Ireland immediately after graduating.

On April 3, colleagues, friends and family will unveil a memorial plaque in

his honor at the Dairy and Non-Dairy Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods Seminar, hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science.

One of Rattray's lab companions remembers him as a quiet, hard-working researcher.

"He was a very nice guy," says Dr. Jean Bourgois. "Actually he was assisting some of my labs for many years and the students really liked him. He liked to communicate with them and explain things, a very good grad student. Quite often he was in the lab late at night and then early in the morning before me." Rattray's own research focused mainly on the standardization of proteins in milk.

Rattray also served as teaching assistant for Dr. Lech Ozimek, who describes him as "a very quiet and dedicated researcher, and a very knowledgeable teacher."

Yet according to both Bourgois and Ozimek, Rattray was nowhere to be seen during his down time.

"I remember one Christmas he went all the way hitchhiking to Alaska, and almost every weekend he was in the mountains," says Bourgois.

Most of his social life also tended to centre around mountaineering clubs, yet Ozimek points out that Rattray was also very capable of going solo. "It was unusual, in the sense that he could go on his own, without a big group," says Ozimek. ■



# Digital Pioneers Making History

By Fran Ross

It's a slim package, but when it is finished it will hold the history of a country: 130 years worth of politics, regional development, culture and activism in 6,000 pages of text, more than 3,000 images, and almost an hour of video and audio clips. Not bad for something you can slip in your back pocket.

The CD-Rom textbook called "Canada: Confederation to Present" is the creation of University of Alberta historians Dr. Bob Hesketh and Chris Hackett. It was one of more than 30 projects and educational technologies featured in Leaders in Learning, an open house hosted last week by the University's Academic Technologies for Learning (ATL).

According to Hackett, it was high time for the CD-Rom textbook. "The study of history has become much more complex over the past few decades with the inclusion of new subject areas and the desire to look at events from multiple perspectives," he explains. "History texts have become massive 400-page monstrosities that are almost impossible to navigate."

As teachers and historians fascinated with the potential of the computer, Hackett and Hesketh aimed to develop a complex interactive textbook at the introductory post-secondary level that would be simpler for students to access than printed texts. They wanted to capture the unique perspectives of specialized fields of study, while still highlighting the common experiences in Canada's past.

Led by a blue-ribbon editorial board of Canadian historians, the CD-Rom gathers together 200 original articles on various topics, organized into five narrative groupings: Politics/Economy, Society/Culture, Regional Dynamics, Women's History and Native History. A sixth narrative, called Synthesis, provides context and interpretation. The CD-Rom is enhanced by interactive maps and graphs, a dedicated Web site, and a search engine. The project has attracted interest from historians, high school history teachers, curriculum developers, and instructional designers.

For Hackett and Hesketh, who are team teaching a course called Computer Applications in History, the progression to digital was natural. "This is the brave new world of academia," says Hackett. "It's not about software development; it's about managing information technology—something historians have always done."

Hackett and Hesketh were among the first on campus to develop a course delivered entirely on the Internet. Offered in spring 1996, the course was part of an ATL-sponsored project called Canadian Studies in Distance Education, which aims

to develop a model for distance-delivering Canadian Studies courses world-wide. Thirteen students from across Alberta registered and dialed into the Web site to read lectures, papers and case studies and to participate in the conferences set up for each module.

"The conferences were the heart of the course," says Haskett. "As students responded to the questions that were posted, we were pleased to find that students would keep up a complex discussion with very little prompting from us. The quality of the participation was as rich or even richer than anything that happens in the classroom."

Fellow historian Dr. Ann McDougall would have to agree. McDougall, a 15-year veteran of the classroom, made her first foray into web-delivery this winter with a new course on the history of the Ottoman Empire. The 400-level course is a mixed model, employing face-to-face delivery supplemented by computer conferencing, which accounts for one-quarter of the class time and 40 per cent of the grade.

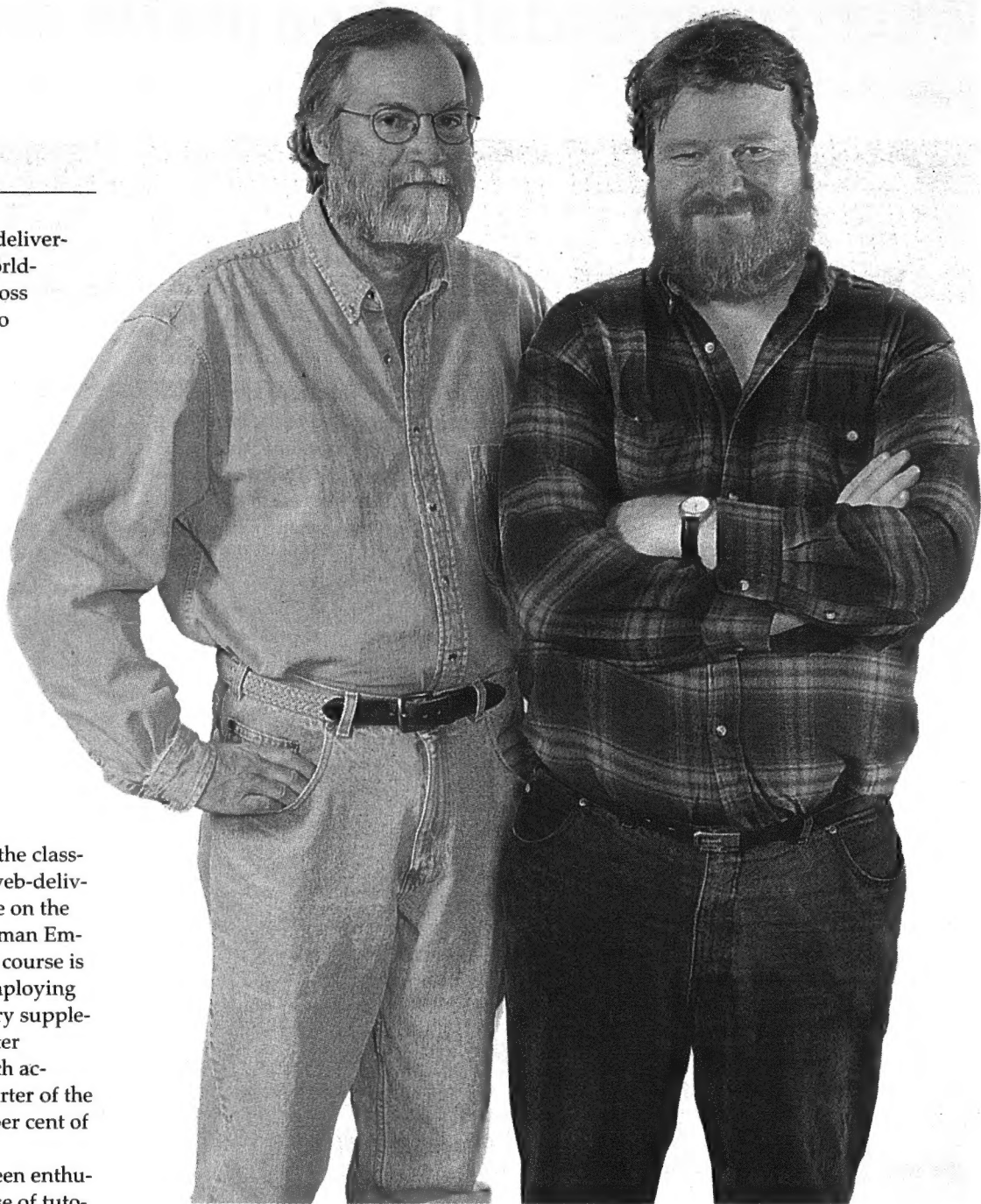
"I've always been enthusiastic about the use of tutorials, but I often don't have the resources to make it happen," says McDougall, who turned to ATL for help in developing an electronic

alternative. Working with ATL support, a teaching assistant and funding from the Faculty of Arts, she has developed a Web site with a computer conferencing feature and resource links. She uses the Web site in the classroom to display interactive maps and to reference readings from the text.

McDougall has divided her course into five modules, each with two themes. One class each week is held in the computer lab, where students can read and post discussions to the conference. One-third of the class of 25 has chosen to do this portion of the class work from a home modem.

With 100 postings per module, McDougall is pleased to find the electronic approach has distinct advantages. "I like to see students reading, formulating arguments and then interacting with each other," she explains. "Many students don't think well on their feet, but this process gives them time to reflect. They have to engage the readings and develop their persuasive skills."

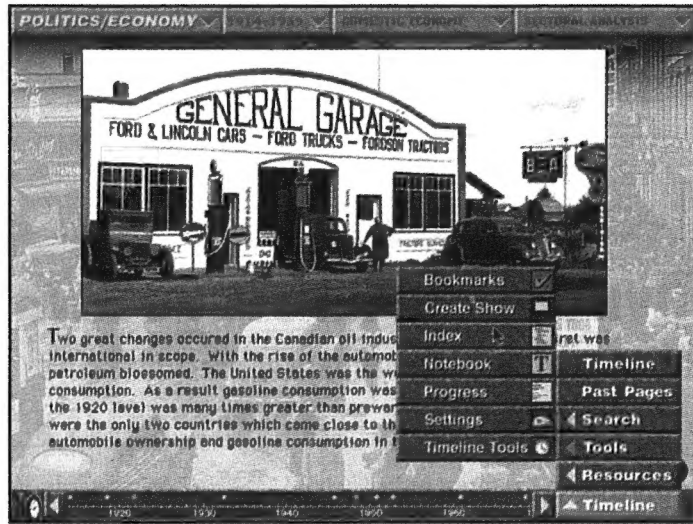
McDougall will admit her journey into the digital world has been less than



Bob Hesketh and Chris Hackett recently received a \$400,000 grant from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage to complete a French and English version of the CD-Rom history project, to be published by Prentice-Hall Canada this year.

smooth, punctuated by server problems, software issues, modem glitches and the like. Some of her students also had initial difficulty adjusting to the new approach. But McDougall is very encouraged by the results and plans to develop several more courses with a mixed-delivery approach.

Although she is a digital pioneer on campus, McDougall pegs her computer skills at an average level. "A year ago I was asking what a Web site was," she says with a laugh. "I approached this looking for ways that technology could help me teach the way I wanted to teach. And I'll continue to explore what elements can help me be the kind of teacher I want to be in the classroom." ■



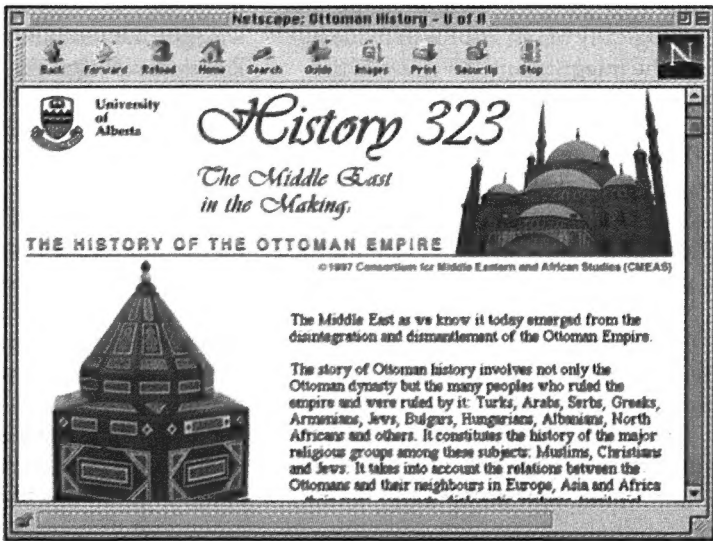
Don't know where to start? Computer and Network Services and Academic Technologies for Learning can help. They've selected a semi-automated WWW development and delivery system to assist faculty in delivering courses on the WWW—either for distance education or for classroom support. It's called WebCT and it's free for all university departments and faculties.

WebCT provides three major services:

- An interface to design the course presentation (color schemes, page layout, etc)
- A set of educational tools to facilitate learning, communication and collaboration
- A set of administrative tools to assist the instructor to manage and continually improve the course

Introductory courses and demonstrations of WebCT will be conducted by ATL during April and May. Faculty interested in learning more or getting accounts for themselves and their students can contact Ken.Crossman@Ualberta.ca.

»» quick »» facts

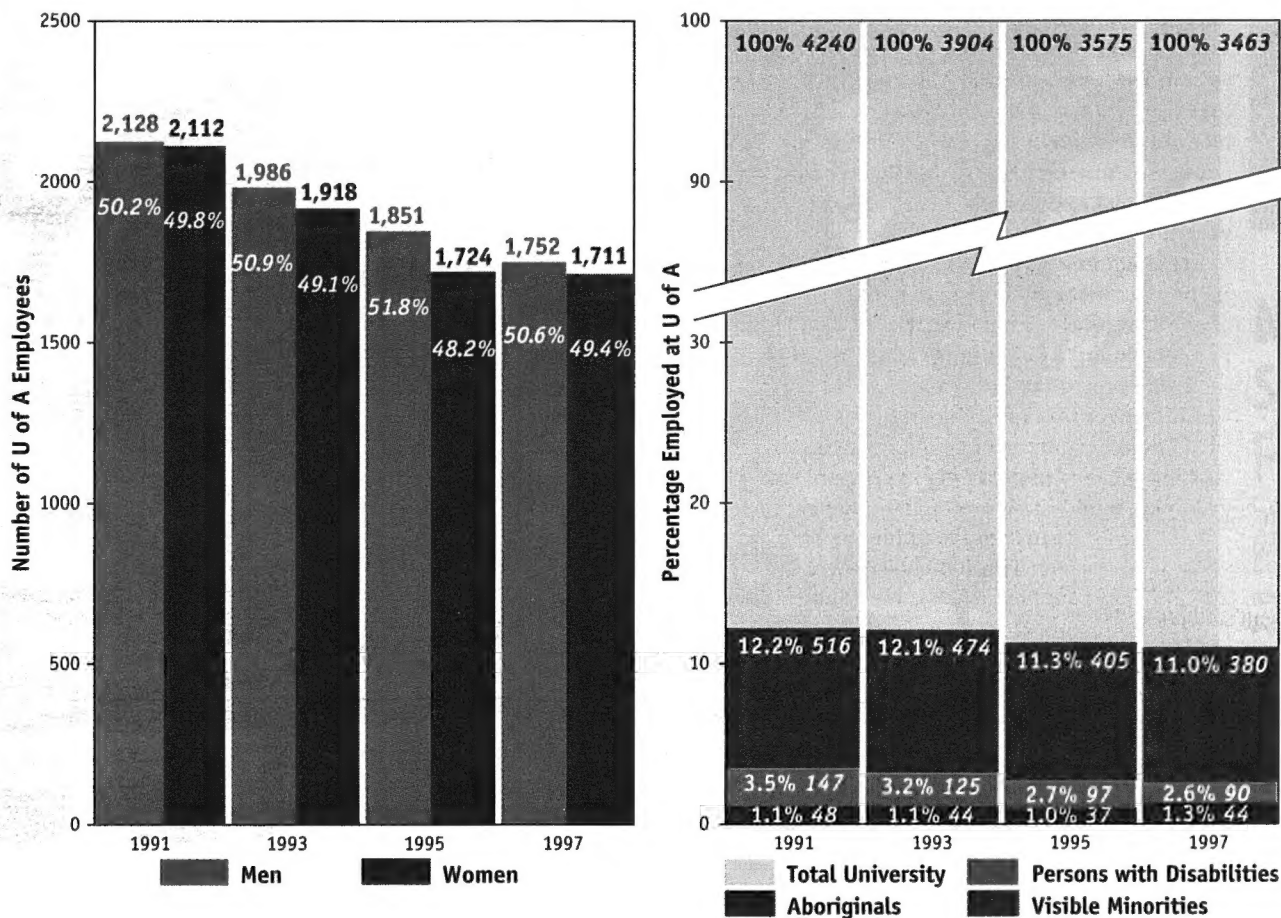




# The University of Alberta's workforce: Employment Equity Update

## Comparison of designated groups in the U of A's workforce

Full-time and part-time continuing academic and non-academic staff, operating



These figures include full-time and part-time continuing academic and non-academic staff paid from the operating budget. They are based on responses to the voluntary Office of Human Rights Employment Equity Census.

Response rates:

1991 – 83.0% (4240/5106)  
1993 – 82.3% (3904/4745)  
1995 – 86.8% (3575/4114)  
1997 – 88.6% (3463/3907)

Employment equity statistics collected by the Office of Human Rights reveal that the overall proportion of **men** and **women** employees has not changed significantly since 1991. Some gains have been made in the number of women professors. The largest single occupational group of women employees continues to be clerical workers. As of December 31, 1997, clerical workers numbered 744 or 43% of all women employed in continuing positions.

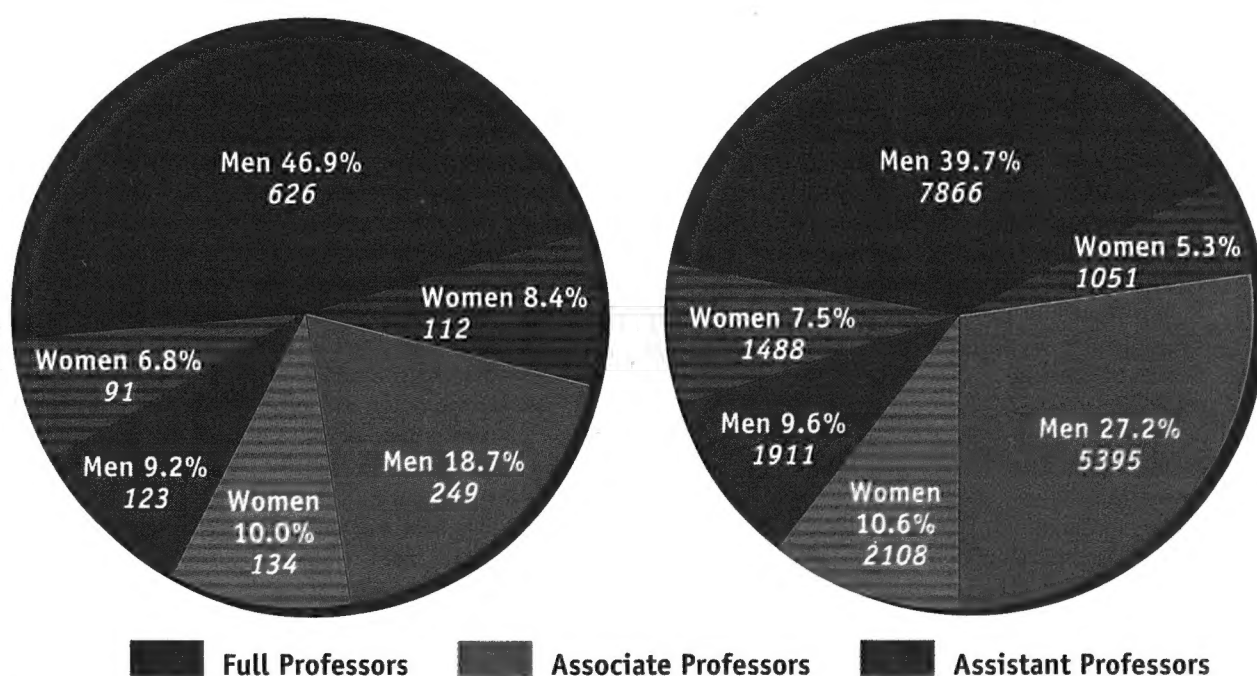
The representation of **Aboriginals** in the University's workforce remains very small. Both the percentage and number of **employees with disabilities** has decreased from 3.5% (or 147 employees) in 1991 to 2.6% (or 90 employees) in 1997. The University is in the process of developing special measures to attract and retain more **Aboriginals** and **persons with disabilities**.

The overall percentage of **members of visible minorities** has decreased from 12.2% (or 516 employees) to 11.0% (or 380 employees), with the largest single group being professors (130). The next largest group is clerical workers (85).

## Percentage of full-time continuing university teachers by rank and sex

University of Alberta – 1997/98

Canada – 1996/97



Source: Human Resources Information System, University of Alberta.

Source: Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Education Section. Unpublished data.

Note: Data for Universities in Quebec and medical faculties are not yet available and are not included here. Data includes professors who are full-tenured and leading to tenure.

The number and percentage of women professors at the University of Alberta has increased since 1991. This is due in part to faculty renewal. In 1991/92, 18.3% (or 289 of 1580) professors were women. Currently 25.2% (337 out of 1335) are women.

The University of Alberta is slightly above the national average in the representation of women professors. At the national level, 23.4% of professors are women. Faculty by faculty breakdowns offer the more complete picture. Women remain absent or significantly under-represented in a number of areas, both at the University of Alberta and nationally.

These statistics are useful in equity planning and implementation at the unit level. The Employment Equity Advisor can provide statistical breakdowns by faculty or administrative department and occupational group.

For additional information, contact:  
Cathy Anne Pachnowski, Employment Equity Advisor  
Office of Human Rights, 252 Athabasca Hall  
cathy.anne.pachnowski@ualberta.ca

Phone: (403) 492-3020  
Fax: (403) 492-2990  
Visit our web site at  
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~hurights>



# Bridging the gap: MBA students form partnership with inner city agency

*Putting something back into the community part of learning the ethic of business*

By Geoff McMaster

It's no secret Edmonton's inner city can be a tough place to live. Many in the community don't have the money to get by, or find themselves shut out of mainstream culture for a variety of reasons.

When things get particularly dire, the Boyle Street Community Services Co-operative at 105 Ave. and 101 St. is one of the few refuges. The "store-front agency" houses a drop-in centre for those who need a hot meal or a bed immediately. But it also offers a full range of services to help people get back on their feet more permanently, everything from employment and substance abuse resources, to parenting workshops to a housing registry that helps negotiate with prospective landlords. The co-op even has a charter school for 85 students who don't respond well in the regular school system.

Yet despite an impressive effort by its staff, often volunteers, funding often falls short at Boyle St. There are many days, says acting director Michael Cairns, when there isn't even enough food for those who drop by for dinner.

To ease that strain, the U of A MBA Students' Association has jumped to the co-op's aid, forming a partnership to help raise funds. While the association has always done a variety of charity work, this year it has chosen to target the Co-op exclusively.

Money is raised primarily through bingos, casinos, and a successful recent raffle which brought in about \$2,200, mainly from company mentors. The total for the year, says Bethel, should reach \$2,700.

On one occasion, the students even tried taking advantage of their own financial acumen to turn a profit for a good cause.

"We had an investors club where we all bought shares, but it actually didn't do very well," says Bethel. "At the end of it there was about \$100, and that went to Boyle St."



MBA volunteers are fund-raising for Boyle St. Co-op.

The association's assistance has not gone unnoticed, or unappreciated, at least at the Co-op. Cairns says the inner city community isn't one that receives a lot of attention, nor is it one towards which the more affluent always feel sympathy. To see business students lending support is "different," but encouraging, he says. Bringing the two communities together "creates an interesting dialogue" and helps break down stereotypes associated with both poverty and affluence.

Bethel is personally well acquainted with Boyle St., having spent a summer

working there, but says he's pleasantly surprised by his fellow students' commitment. About 110 MBA students currently participate in charity events, and he intends soon to involve undergraduates as well, since one purpose of the partnership is to raise student awareness of social issues.

"It's not just a financial thing—it has been so far, but the plans are that we build an understanding among business students of some of the social conditions in the city...It's our responsibility as an association to give them that access."

"It's not that students aren't interested in contributing to these charitable organi-

zations. A lot of times, when given the opportunity, they respond."

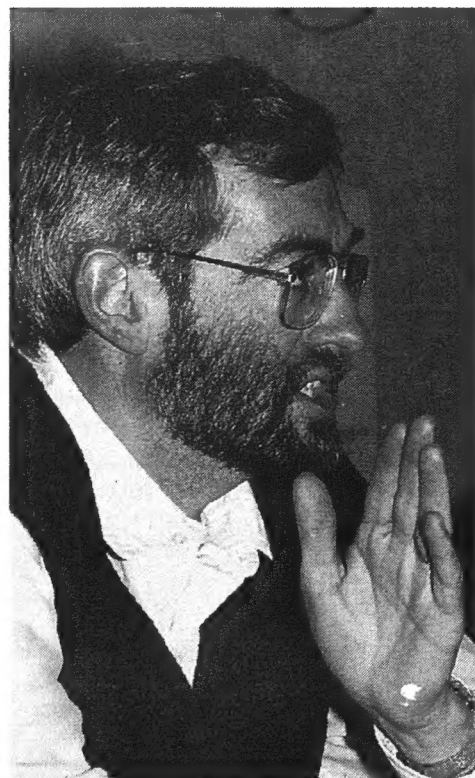
One reason the association became involved in charity work in the first place, says MBA student Travis Braithwaite, is to recognize that putting something back into the community is "an ethic of doing business." If Bethel has his way, that commitment will only increase over time.

"One of the things about Boyle St. is that the programs they've got are absolutely phenomenal, but their fund-raising infrastructure isn't all that sophisticated," he says. "So part of our future plan is for MBA students to get involved in marketing and planning, and that kind of stuff." ■

## The mass media: "Stenographers for the rich and powerful?"

*Media guru says the press marginalizes other perspectives*

By Michael Robb



Media guru Dr. Robert Hackett

Canadian journalism is in a state of crisis. Ownership of the mass media in Canada is so concentrated that some voices are effectively being shut out, says one of Canada's foremost media gurus, Robert Hackett, a professor at Simon Fraser University's School of Communication.

One company owns most of the major daily newspapers in Canada, Hackett told his U of A audience last week. That kind of concentrated corporate power diminishes a diversity of views, promoting consumerism over other social values. For example, said Hackett, there is very little genuine debate about issues on the pages of the major dailies. They have business sections, yet no labor sections—much less reporters devoted exclusively to labor issues.

Hackett, a former Killam post-doctoral fellow at the U of A, says forces of globali-

zation have also eroded independent public journalism, accelerating creation of a two-tiered information system and the growth of an information underclass.

In Canada, the decline of public broadcasting in the era of globalization has been dramatic. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has lost fully a third of its budget in the last 10 years. Local media has also been hit, and the traditional barriers between editorial and advertising are crumbling. People in the industry now talk about "total newspapering."

Sounding like the '90s echo of Tom Kent, who as head of a royal commission on press ownership warned in the early '80s of growing media concentration, Hackett argues freedom of the press today is not, on its own, an adequate public philosophy for journalism. All that does is entrench the concentration of media ownership.

... with fewer places to work,  
journalists may be compelled to say,  
"Screw it. Why don't we start our own?"

Hackett had several suggestions. First, the press should extend its watchdog role to business and the media itself. Second, journalists should examine the ethos of objectivity as a normative ideal. That has led to a profession duty-bound to interview the "appropriate sources," thereby shutting out other legitimate voices and perspectives. Third, revitalizing public broadcasting is essential. That may not happen by itself, said Hackett, but with fewer places to work, journalists may be compelled to say, "Screw it. Why don't we start our own?" Canada, he said, lags behind the U.S. in its number of alternative press voices.

The public needs to shift its thinking about the media, says Hackett. While media's a monopoly now, Hackett envisions the benefits that could be derived from media designed as a public utility, committed to serving as a forum for a diversity of opinions. Newspapers, for example, could begin to set aside full pages for alternative views. ■



# Get out that mosquito repellent

*Malaria 'dilemma' means the disease could reach the developed world*

By Geoff McMaster

Anyone looking for career inspiration may find "a bright and brilliant future" in malaria research, says Dr. Robert Desowitz, a world expert on tropical diseases.

That's because cases of malaria are rising steadily in the Third World and there are no effective controls or treatments to keep the disease in check. If current trends continue, malaria may also make its presence felt in the developed world, claims the professor emeritus of tropical medicine and medical microbiology, at the University of Hawaii. Desowitz was on campus last week to deliver the annual Strickland Memorial Lecture in biological sciences.

He said researchers studying the disease today almost invariably recite the same ominous "statistical mantra."

"There are three billion people at risk, and 300 million infected, and of these, it's estimated three million will die each year. We've come to a state now of dilemma, where malaria is less treatable, and there are virtually no good drugs, and no insecticides."



Dr. Robert Desowitz

One of the main reasons for this latest re-emergence is certain species of mosquitoes, which carry the malaria parasite, have become resistant to the insecticide DDT, and nothing comparable (and environmentally safe) has been developed to replace it.

Scientists have been trying to find a vaccine for malaria since 1910, he says, but have poured billions of dollars into the effort since 1972, mainly because of the loss of insecticide control. Despite the huge investment, however, a vaccine does not appear to be on the horizon. There are a few preventative or chemoprophylactic drugs available which work in the short term, such as Lariam or Methloquine, but they have some disturbing side effects.

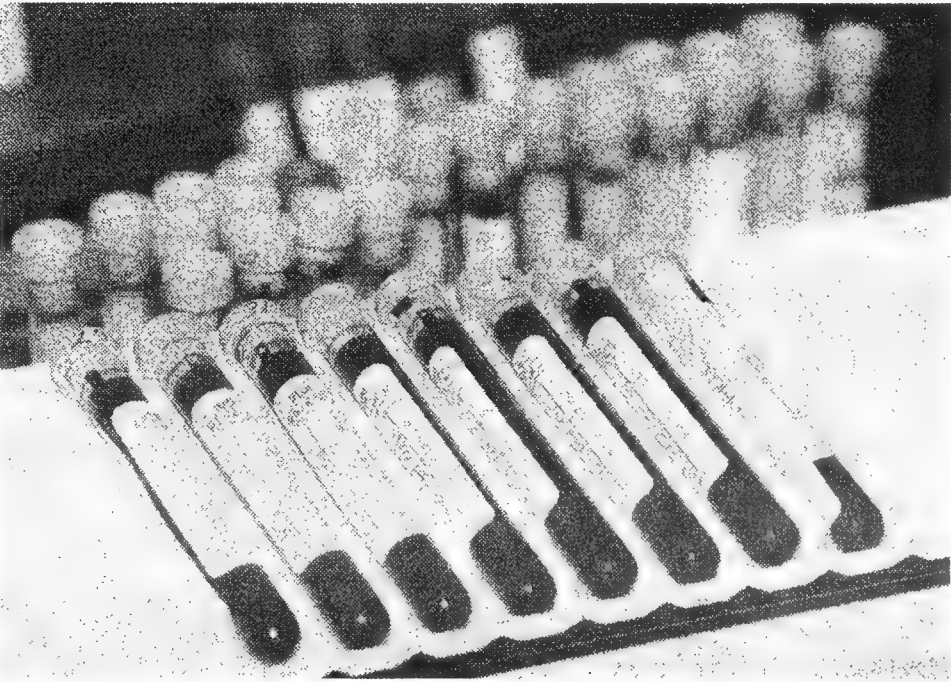
Much of Desowitz's lecture focused on the history of malaria, since it has

had a more profound influence on "shaping the human genome" than perhaps any other factor, he says, accounting for racial differences in blood composition.

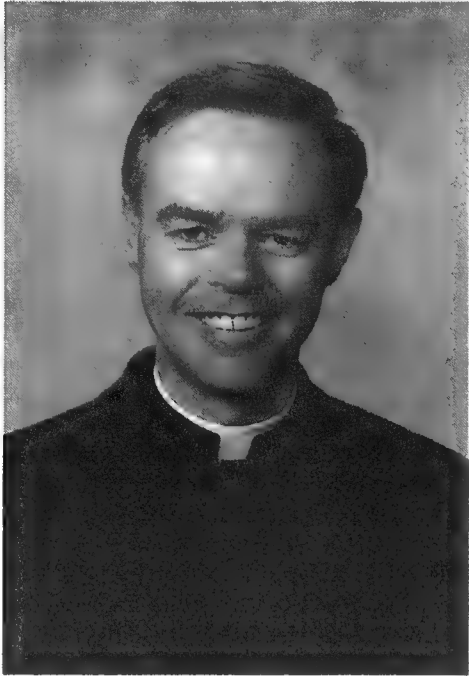
"There have arisen a whole bunch of essential characteristics in our blood that have been brought about by the pressure of selection that the malaria parasite has exerted...the West African black, for example, became completely resistant to infection with one type of malaria," Desowitz speculates this resistance may have influenced the course of slavery, since West Africans were able to work in agricultural areas where no one else was.

The point of Desowitz's historical survey, however, was to provide a "vision that there seem to be no permanent solutions, that all of us are in danger, particularly with changing climate," since it's clear that "as the ice climbs up and goes north, so the mosquitoes will follow."

Yet while Desowitz paints a rather bleak picture of malaria's ability to survive changing conditions, he is no pessimist. He says there is some "very wonderful work" going on in biological control, some of it right here at the University of Alberta, and the search for a vaccine must continue. ■



## appointments



### New president at St. Joseph's College

Father Timothy Scott (csb) has been appointed president of St. Joseph's College. Most Rev. Joseph N. MacNeil, Archbishop of Edmonton and Chair of the Board of St. Joseph's College, made the announcement recently. Scott replaces Father George Smith, who is now general councillor of the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil in Toronto.

A native of Regina, Scott graduated with a French literature BA (University of Saskatchewan) and MA (McGill University) before moving into theological studies. He trained at the Toronto School of Theology and the Faculté catholique in Lyons, France. Scott was ordained in 1984, served as campus minister at the U of A, then completed graduate work in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, where he received a licentiate, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In addition, Scott holds a doctorate in biblical theology from Rome's Gregorian University, is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association and Society of Biblical Literature.

For the past two years, Scott has lectured at St. Joseph's College and Newman Theological College and published articles on pastoral and homiletic themes. ■

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## ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS NEEDED

The terms of office of a number of academic and support staff members serving on GFC standing committees, and on committees to which GFC elects members, will expire on June 30, 1998. The GFC Nominating Committee is seeking academic and support staff members to fill the following vacancies for three-year terms beginning July 1, 1998.

**ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC)** – 2 faculty members who are members of GFC and 1 Department Chair-at-large. Members must be available from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, excluding summer months.

**COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS, ACADEMIC STANDING AND TRANSFER (CAAST)** – 2 faculty members. Members must be available from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon on the third Thursday of every month, excluding summer months.

**CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC)** – 1 academic or support staff member. Members must be available from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month, excluding summer months.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – 3 faculty members who are members of GFC. Members must be available from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Mondays. Nominees must NOT be from the Faculties of Education and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculté Saint-Jean, or the Departments of Art and Design or Physics.

**FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC)** – 1 faculty member. Nominees must NOT be from the Faculties of Medicine and Oral Health Sciences, Physical Education and Recreation, or Science.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE (LC)** – 1 support staff member. Members must be available from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of every month, excluding summer months.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE (TLC)** – 2 faculty members. Members must be available from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, excluding summer months.

**UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC)** – 2 faculty members. There are no set meeting times. Meetings are held approximately twice per year.

**UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC)** – 1 faculty member. There are no set meeting times. Meetings are held approximately twice per year.

**ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC)** – 1 faculty member to serve as a Regular Member and 1 faculty member to serve as an Alternate Member. Experience with student appeals is highly desirable. The busiest time for AAC is from August through November, but it may meet occasionally during the remainder of the year. Appeals are often held in the evenings.

**UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB)** – 2 faculty members to serve as Alternate Members. Experience with student appeals is highly desirable. UAB meets on an as-needed basis; therefore, availability of members throughout the year is desirable. Appeals are often held in the evenings.

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEES – PANEL** – 5 faculty members.

**COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE (COSL)** – 2 faculty members. COSL and its subcommittees meet at various times throughout the year.

All nominations, or expressions of interest, should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae or brief biographical sketch and directed by Friday, May 8, 1998 to: Ms. V. Pemberton-Pigott, Coordinator, GFC Nominating Committee, 2-5 University Hall (492-1938; e-mail: val.pemberton@ualberta.ca)

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# events

## EXHIBITIONS

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### FAB GALLERY

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### MCMULLEN GALLERY

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"Laughter is the Best Medicine—The Art of the Cartoon"—a light hearted look at life through the work of thirteen local artists who are members of The Cartoonists' Union. Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m. (subject to availability of volunteers). Information: 492-8428 or 492-4211. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

### ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

April

An art exhibit of oil paintings done by world renowned artist Sr. Immolata Meyen will be displayed in the main corridor of St. Joseph's College.

## MUSIC

### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

April 3, 8 p.m.

Music at Convocation Hall Series. Piano Trio featuring Martin Riseley, violin, Tanya Prochazka, cello, and Stéphane Lemelin, piano. Admission: \$7/adult, \$5/student/senior. Convocation Hall.

April 4, 7 p.m.

Northern Alberta Honor Band Concert with the University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Fordyce Pier, director. Convocation Hall.

April 5, 3 p.m.

The University of Alberta Concert Band Concert. William H. Street, director. Admission: \$7/adult, \$5/student/senior. Convocation Hall.

April 5, 8 p.m.

The University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra Concert. Malcolm Forsyth conductor. Program will include works by Wagner, Rachmaninoff, and Elgar. Performance will include the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, the University of Alberta Concert Choir, and the winner of the 1998 Department of Music Piano Concerto Competition. Admission: \$15.adults, \$10 students/seniors. Winspear Centre for Music.

April 6, 8 p.m.

Marc Couroux, piano recital. Admission: \$10/adults, \$5/students/seniors. Convocation Hall.

April 6, 8 p.m.

The Grant MacEwan Community College and the University of Alberta Jazz Bands Concert. Raymond Baril and Tom Dust, director. Information: 497-4436. Admission: \$7/adult, \$5/student/senior. John L. Haar Theatre, Grant MacEwan Community College.

April 8, 8 p.m.

The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Fordyce Pier, director. Admission: \$7/adult, \$5/student/senior. Convocation Hall.

### COMPUTING SCIENCE

April 6, 3:30 p.m.

Johnny W. Wong, Professor of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, "Information Delivery Using Multicast." 112 V-Wing.

### ECO-RESEARCH CHAIR IN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT

April 17, 3 p.m.

Don Bursill, Director, Australian Cooperative Research Centre on Water Quality and Treatment, "Water Down Under: Is It Safe to Drink?" 2F1.04 (Classroom D), Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

### HISTORY AND CLASSICS

April 3, 3 p.m.

William Weber, Professor of History, CalState Long Beach, "Musical Life and the Beau Monde in Eighteenth-Century London." 2-58 Tory Building.

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

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### PHILOSOPHY

April 17, 3:30 p.m.

Paul Bartha, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, "No One Knows the Date or the Hour: An Unorthodox Application of Rev. Bayes Theorem." 4-29 Humanities Centre.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

April 16, 6:30 p.m.

Wendy Rodgers and Diane Britton, "Lifestyle Changes vs. Dieting for Health and Well-Being." E-120 Van Vliet Centre.

### PHYSICS

April 9, 2 p.m.

Paul Davis, UCLA, "Teleseismic Tomography of Continental Rifts." V-129 V-Wing.

### PHYSIOLOGY

April 3, 3:30 p.m.

Loren Kline, "Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide and Gall Bladder Motility." 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

### RENEWABLE RESOURCES

April 9, 12:30 p.m.

Uldis Silins, "Temperature Dependence of Whole-Tree Bending Characteristics and Sapwood Damage During Static Bending of Lodgepole Pine." 2-36 Earth Sciences Building.

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### ALBERTA CENTRE FOR WELL-BEING

April 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wojtek J. Chodzko-Zajko, Associate Professor, Kent State University, and Founding Editor of the *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*, "Promoting Physical Activity Among Older Persons: The WHO Guidelines—Implications for Canadian Society." Tickets are \$15. Information and registration: 497-5000. Grant MacEwan Community College.

### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

April 8, 11 a.m.

Julian Davies, President and CEO, TerraGen Diversity Inc., "How Bacteria Become Resistant to Antibiotics." Sponsored by Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. Bernard Snell Hall, Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

April 17, 3 p.m.

Walter Neupert, Institute für Physiologische Chemie, University of Munich, "The Making of a Mitochondrion." Sponsored by Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and the Faculty of Science. 1-60 Chemistry East Building.

### Ecology Seminar Series

April 3, noon

Samantha Song, "Edge in the Boreal Forest: Boon or Bane for Birds." M-229 Biological Sciences Centre.

### Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group

April 3, 4 p.m.

Richard Wozniak, "Bridging the Gap Between the Nuclear Pore Complex and Soluble Transport Factors." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

April 9, 4 p.m.

William Brook, Medical Biochemistry, University of Calgary, "Mechanisms Controlling Axis Formation in Drosophila Limb Development." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

### CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (EDMONTON)

April 20, 7 p.m.

Joan Snyder, Grande Prairie Regional College, "Sustainable Development in Forestry." Information: 430-5383. All women University graduates are welcome. Faculty Club.

### CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Albie Sachs, Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, "Equality Jurisprudence in the South African Constitutional Court." McLennan Ross Hall (Room 231/237), Law Building.

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# positions

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## FACULTY POSITIONS

### DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of Alberta invites applications for faculty positions. Due to past and impending retirements, three tenure-track positions are currently available. Applicants eligible for Alberta Heritage Foundation or Medical Research appointments are also encouraged to apply. AHFMR funds scholars in health-related research; appointments can be at either the junior or senior level and permit the holder to focus primarily on research. Appropriate candidates may be eligible through AHFMR for both salary and establishment grants. Qualified candidates must hold a PhD degree in speech-language pathology or a related discipline. Evidence of research and teaching potential are required, and eligibility for certification by the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and/or the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is desirable. All appointees will conduct research, teach courses, and supervise masters and doctoral student research in their areas of expertise.

The following areas of expertise are sought: Acquired neurogenic communication disorders in adults associated with aphasia, traumatic brain injury, and dementia; normal and disordered aspects of voice and resonance; speech and hearing science (including anatomy and physiology of the speech mechanism and the hearing and vestibular systems; principles and measurement of sound; speech acoustics and perception); child language development and disorders (specialization in the area of early language development desirable). The Department is located in historic and renovated facilities within the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Department members teach and supervise students in three graduate programs: (1) an entry-level master's degree in speech-language pathology (MSLP-B degree); (2) a research master's degree in speech-language pathology (MSc) for speech-language clinicians; and (3) an interdisciplinary PhD degree program in Rehabilitation Science offered through the Faculty. The Department operates an in-house clinic in which MSLP-B students have their initial practicum placements. Close working relationships exist with community-based programs in speech-language pathology. Also housed within the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine are the Departments of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, the Centre for Studies in Clinical Education and the Rehabilitation Research Centre. Potential research collaboration with University colleagues is also available through interdisciplinary research centres such as the Centre for Gerontology, the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, the Centre for Research in Child Development, the JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre, and the Bioethics Centre. Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Consideration of applications will commence April 1, 1998 and applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

Please apply by sending a curriculum vitae, reprints or preprints of publications best representing your research, names of three referees and a statement of teaching and research interests to:

Dr. Albert Cook, Dean  
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine  
3-48 Corbett Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T6G 2G4  
Phone: 403-492-5991  
Fax: 403-492-1626

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## TECHNOLOGY TRAINING OFFICER

Learning Systems at the University of Alberta is seeking a full-time Technology Training Officer, for a two year contract, with the possibility of renewal. The incumbent will take responsibility for a wide range of training initiatives, that are delivered in partnership with other campus units, and that promote and support the Learning Systems Technology Training Program for University of Alberta students, faculty and staff (see <http://www.ualberta.ca/TRAINING/techtofc.htm>). In addition, the Technology Training Officer is responsible for the day to day operation of the Technology Training Centre, located in Cameron Library. The Centre consists of three fully equipped labs, connected to an NT 4.0 server with high speed links to other campus computing services and the Internet (see <http://www.ualberta.ca/TRAINING/ttc.htm>).

### Requirements:

- degree or diploma in education, library or information science, or related discipline
  - experience in program development and delivery, including alternate delivery, for adult learners
  - working knowledge of computer hardware, software and networks, sufficient to provide first level support to instructors and trainees
  - understanding of basic management processes, including budgeting, financial management and recruiting
  - evidence of ongoing professional development and involvement
- Salary: Commensurate with experience, starting from \$32,970

Closing date: April 15, 1998

To apply, please send a letter, current resume and names of three references to:

Grace Romanow  
Executive Assistant  
Office of Associate VP (Learning Systems)  
1-3 University Hall  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Fax: (403) 492-1439

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# notices

Please e-mail notices to [public.affairs@ualberta.ca](mailto:public.affairs@ualberta.ca).  
Notices should be received by 3 p.m. one week prior to publication.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department of Anthropology is hosting a retirement party honoring: Dr. Michael Asch, Darlene Bagstad, Dr. David Bai, Dr. Ruth Gruhn, Dr. Carl Urion and Dr. David Young, April 24, 5 p.m. in Lister Hall Banquet Room. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased from the Department office, 13-15 Tory, 492-3879.

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## CELEBRATE 90 and WIN!

Our last winners are Laurie Simonson (*Biochemistry*) and Margaret Dolezal (*Oral Health Sciences*) who won tickets to the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Spanish Pops on Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m. and Valerie Henitiuk who won tickets to Maxim Philippov's piano concerto on Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m.



Thanks to the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra for making this giveaway possible.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 90th Anniversary celebrations.

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# laurels

## DR. JOHN COLTER TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE

The University of Western Ontario will award an honorary doctor of science to Dr. John Colter, professor emeritus and international expert on viruses, June 11, 1998. A former chair of biochemistry (1961-87), Colter led the department to its reputation as the pre-eminent biochemistry department in Canada. More than 80 PhD or postdoctoral students training in the department under his tenure now occupy faculty positions in universities across North America.

Under his leadership, the department was the site for the first protein crystallography laboratory in the country, and is the base for the Protein Engineering Network of Centres of Excellence, one of the most successful in Canada. Colter will address graduates of UWO from the Faculty of Science.



# Smashing taboos

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

**H**e remembers gathering his playmates around him every day, slate and chalk in hand. He would sit them down and teach again what they had just learned in school. He was a wise, doting instructor, all of six, and they were his quiet, respectful pupils, eager to please.

Dixie Maluwa-Banda knew teaching would someday be a big part of his life. What he didn't realize was that it would turn into a matter of life and death. Fast forward about 20 years to a high-school class in Malawi. In this southeastern African country, surrounded by Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, an animated discussion is going on. Someone asks the teacher what the Christian response to AIDS is. "What is AIDS?" replies a probing Maluwa-Banda. A flutter of hands go up and he selects a student to answer.

"American idea of discouraging sex," says the teen.

Maluwa-Banda is astonished. When most students nod in agreement, he is saddened.

He remembers thinking "It's time to rescue them."

This determination to do something eventually led him across the ocean to a PhD program at the U of A and a counseling practicum at the University of Alberta Hospitals.

Here he saw the faces of people with AIDS, their bodies too hollow to hold even hope. Uncomfortable at first, wondering whether his clients would accept a counselor from a different culture, Maluwa-Banda found them to be, in fact, very supportive.

"I know times I have cried with my clients and I've told them it is okay to cry...[And] there have been times when, literally, we all had nothing to say. We would just sit there in silence. And to me, I thought nothing was happening," says Maluwa-Banda. The feedback indicated otherwise. "They told me 'Those moments of silence were wonderful. I needed such moments.'"

Maluwa-Banda will bring these experiences back to Malawi where an esti-

mated 12 per cent of the population is HIV positive and people between 15 and 24 make up one quarter of all AIDS cases.

It's not an easy issue to approach in a predominantly Christian country where sexuality and sex education are taboos, says Maluwa-Banda. He first wanted to study adolescent sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Malawi several years ago while completing his master's degree at Brandon University in Manitoba. But at the time, the Ministry of Education in his homeland said it was "too sensitive an issue" and rejected his proposal.

Now, five years later, the Malawi government can no longer ignore the statistics.

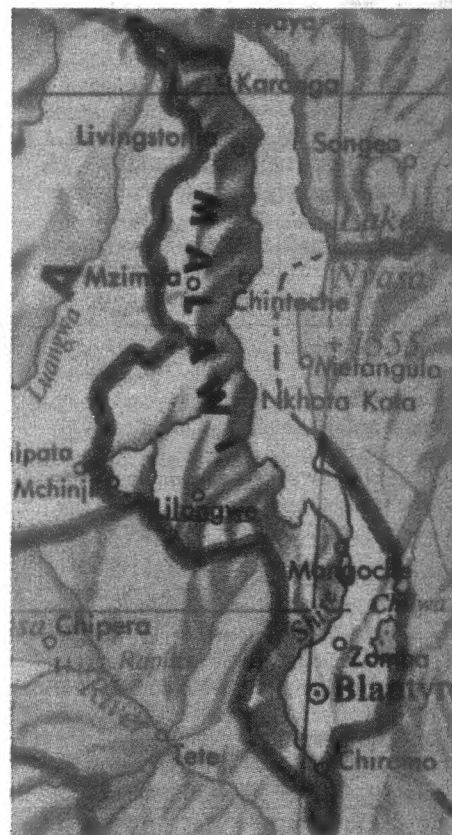
With a population of 11 million, Malawi has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world. In 1994, an average 25 people became infected, six developed AIDS and five died from it every hour. Today, Maluwa-Banda estimates the death rate from AIDS has more than doubled.

He cites a number of contributing factors: a 60 per cent illiteracy rate, an ineffective media campaign targeted only towards adults, and certain cultural groups who believe in and still practice polygamy.

But it's the lack of a formal sex-education program in schools that Maluwa-Banda wants to change. While a health officer does make presentations on AIDS, sessions are infrequent and there's no one on staff to answer questions outside these sessions. Teachers are neither trained nor inclined to discuss teen-aged sexuality.

Maluwa-Banda doesn't want to break these taboos. He wants to smash them into oblivion.

He's heading back to Malawi soon to conduct his research, armed with a \$20,000 Africa Dissertation Internship Award from the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and a \$3,200 grant from the vice-president academic's Endowment Fund for the Future (Support of International Development Activities.)



- 12 per cent of the Malawi population is HIV positive
- 25 per cent of AIDS cases occur in youth between 15 and 24
- A 60 per cent illiteracy rate, ineffective media campaigns, cultural practices of polygamy, and lack of sex education in schools contribute to the AIDS crisis
- Dixie Maluwa-Banda is on leave from the University of Malawi to complete his PhD at the U of A on adolescent sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Malawi
- The Rockefeller Foundation contributed \$20,000 to Maluwa-Banda's research
- He expects to complete his work by 2000 and will return to Malawi to help the government set up AIDS awareness programs in high schools

## »» quick »» facts

Meanwhile, the health and education ministries in Malawi eagerly await his findings. They plan to base an AIDS awareness program for high school students on his research. And when he returns to his faculty position at the University of Malawi, he will incorporate his data in courses he teaches for secondary-school teachers.

The taboos do not have much longer to live. ■

folio

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